

**SUMMARY OF
GENERAL STATUTES ENACTED
AT THE
2nd SESSION OF THE 158th
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA
2026**

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

**316 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334**



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FOREWORD

We are pleased to present to you the Summary of General Statutes Enacted at the 2026 Session of the General Assembly of Georgia. This represents one of the services which the Legislative Services Committee and the Office of Legislative Counsel perform for the legislative branch of government. Other services include bill drafting, research, statutory and Code revision, rendering of opinions, counseling, legislative reference, interim committee staffing, and preparation of reports.

This document contains a summary of the general statutes of state-wide application which were enacted at the 2026 regular session of the General Assembly of Georgia. No resolutions, local Acts, or uncodified "population Acts" have been included. The document also includes a table of Code sections amended and enacted at the 2026 session.

Minutely analyzing each statute would be impractical, because doing so would defeat the main purpose which we hope that this document accomplishes. It is intended to be used as a convenient reference for persons desiring to know which laws were enacted or to ascertain the main features of each Act without the necessity of reading the Act in its entirety.

For specific, detailed information on any particular law, the Act itself should be examined. Acts may be readily located in the Georgia Laws by Act number, since the Acts are published in the Georgia Laws in numerical order by Act number. In addition, the Georgia Laws contain a table for converting Act numbers to Georgia Laws page numbers.

This summary is not to be deemed in any manner as an opinion from the Office of Legislative Counsel, and, for purposes of this summary, the question of constitutionality has not been considered with respect to any Act.

We hope that this document will benefit all who have occasion to use it. Comments and suggestions for improvement are welcomed and should be directed to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Betsy Howerton
Legislative Counsel

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The Acts in this summary are arranged according to the title of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated which they amend. **In those cases in which an Act amends more than one Code title, the Act appears under only one of the affected titles.** For a comprehensive list of bills affecting any particular title, reference should be made to the O.C.G.A Index found immediately after the General Statute Summaries. A table of titles appears below. No Acts are listed for those titles which are indicated by an asterisk.

TITLE 1*	GENERAL PROVISIONS
TITLE 2	AGRICULTURE
TITLE 3*	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
TITLE 4*	ANIMALS
TITLE 5*	APPEAL AND ERROR
TITLE 6	AVIATION
TITLE 7	BANKING AND FINANCE
TITLE 8*	BUILDINGS AND HOUSING
TITLE 9	CIVIL PRACTICE
TITLE 10	COMMERCE AND TRADE
TITLE 11*	COMMERCIAL CODE
TITLE 12	CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TITLE 13*	CONTRACTS
TITLE 14	CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ASSOCIATIONS
TITLE 15	COURTS
TITLE 16	CRIMES AND OFFENSES
TITLE 17	CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
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TITLE 23*	EQUITY
TITLE 24*	EVIDENCE
TITLE 25	FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY
TITLE 26	FOOD, DRUGS, AND COSMETICS
TITLE 27	GAME AND FISH
TITLE 28	GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TITLE 29*	GUARDIAN AND WARD
TITLE 30	HANDICAPPED PERSONS
TITLE 31	HEALTH
TITLE 32	HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, AND FERRIES
TITLE 33	INSURANCE
TITLE 34	LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
TITLE 35	LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND AGENCIES
TITLE 36	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TITLE 37	MENTAL HEALTH
TITLE 38	MILITARY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
TITLE 39	MINORS

TITLE 40 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
TITLE 41* NUISANCES
TITLE 42 PENAL INSTITUTIONS
TITLE 43 PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES
TITLE 44 PROPERTY
TITLE 45 PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES
TITLE 46 PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
TITLE 47 RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS
TITLE 48 REVENUE AND TAXATION
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TITLE 50 STATE GOVERNMENT
TITLE 51 TORTS
TITLE 52 WATERS OF THE STATE
TITLE 53* WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026 SESSION SUMMARY

HOUSE BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2025 Session	648	48	0	0	45	3
Introduced during the 2026 Session	<u>676</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>4</u>
	1324	258	0	1	251	7
Generals Passed	117					
Locals Passed.....	<u>141</u>					
Total Passed.....	258					
					Sent to the Governor for approval.....	258

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Adopted	Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2025 Session	127	4	0	2	1	0
Introduced during the 2026 Session	<u>1138</u>	<u>966</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
	1265	970	0	2	6	0
Generals Adopted.....	4					
Other Non-Privileged Adopted.....	12					
Locals Adopted.....	0					
Constitutional Amendments.....	2					
Privileged Adopted	<u>952</u>					
Total Adopted	970					
					Sent to the Governor for approval.....	6

SENATE BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2025 Session	286	32	0	1	29	3
Introduced during the 2026 Session	<u>255</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>2</u>
	541	99	0	3	94	5
Generals Passed	70					
Locals Passed.....	<u>29</u>					
Total Passed	99					
					Sent to the Governor for approval.....	99

SENATE RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Adopted	Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2025 Session	69	6	0	0	0	0
Introduced during the 2026 Session	<u>551</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	620	508	0	3	1	0
Generals Adopted.....	1					
Other Non-Privileged Adopted.....	21					
Locals Adopted.....	0					
Constitutional Amendments.....	0					
Privileged Adopted	<u>486</u>					
Total Adopted	508					
					Sent to the Governor for approval.....	1

TOTAL BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
HOUSE BILLS	1324	258	0	1	251	7
SENATE BILLS	<u>541</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL FOR BOTH HOUSES	1865	357	0	4	345	12

Total number of Bills sent to the Governor for approval..... 357

TOTAL RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Adopted	Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
HOUSE RESOLUTIONS	1265	970	0	2	6	0
SENATE RESOLUTIONS	<u>620</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL FOR BOTH HOUSES	1885	1478	0	5	7	0

Total number of Resolutions sent to the Governor for approval..... 7

**TITLE 2
AGRICULTURE**

Act 432; SB 435

This Act renames the Georgia Department Authority as the Georgia Agricultural Development Authority and makes conforming changes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-8A-3, 2-8A-5, 2-8A-6, 2-8A-7, 7-1-1001, 45-18-7.1, 47-2-318, 50-10-1, 50-10-3, 50-10-4, 50-10-5, 50-17-21, and 50-23-2.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 6
AVIATION**

Act 457; HB 1434

This Act requires every airport sponsor in this state to identify the airport affected area for its airport and notify any governing body that such affected area is located within its territorial limits. The Act requires that each such airport affected governing body adopt regulations relative to the use of land in the affected area, after public notice and hearing, and administer and enforce such regulations. The Act provides that, at a minimum, such regulations shall include provisions for the limitation of the height of buildings, structures, and objects of natural growth located within the airport affected area for the purpose of keeping civil airport imaginary surfaces clear of airport obstructions. The Act requires the Department of Transportation to provide assistance and guidance to airport affected governing bodies to ensure such regulations comply with Federal Aviation Administration requirements. The Act further provides for the adoption of local methods of enforcing such regulations, a method for requesting variances, and penalties relative to regulatory noncompliance.

The Act enacts Article 3 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 6-3.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 7
BANKING AND FINANCE**

Act 452; HB 1272

This Act creates a comprehensive licensing, regulatory, and operating scheme for licensed payment stablecoin issuers. The Act implements the federal GENIUS Act which creates a similar payment stablecoin issuer scheme at the federal level.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-4 and 7-1-243 and enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 7-11.

Effective on the earlier of January 18, 2027, or 120 days after the issuance of final implementing regulations for the GENIUS Act.

Act 478; HB 945

This Act authorizes financial institutions to place temporary holds of up to 15 business days on transactions involving elderly or disabled adults when financial exploitation is suspected. The Act provides for notification to trusted contacts within three business days of such a hold, the extension of such hold if an investigation continues, or the shortening of such hold if required by a court. The Act also requires training on identifying fraud, the retention of records, and immunity from liability when the financial institution acted in good faith. The Act imposes regulations on virtual currency kiosks, including explicit warnings, transaction limits, certain disclosures, live customer support, and refund rights for fraud victims. The Act further provides for numerous non-substantive changes to the title.

The Act redesignates O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-680 through 7-1-698 as Part 1 of Article 4 of Chapter 7-1; amends O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-4, 7-1-243, 7-1-534, 7-1-680, 7-1-689, 7-1-706, 7-1-1000, 7-1-1004, 7-1-1008, 7-1-1011, 7-1-1132, 7-3-4, 7-3-40, 7-6A-2, 7-9-3, 7-10-1, 7-10-2, 7-10-3, 7-10-6, 7-10-10, and 30-5-7; repeals and reserves O.C.G.A. Section 7-1-698; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-390.2, 7-1-632.1, 7-9-10.1, 7-10-2.1, 7-10-3.1, Part 15 of Article 1 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 7-1, and Part 2 of Article 4 of Chapter 7-1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 9
CIVIL PRACTICE**

Act 387; HB 1208

This Act requires depositions in this state to be taken and recorded before certified court reporters. The Act repeals requirements that depositions in this state be recorded by stenographic means.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 9-11-28 and 9-11-30.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 448; HB 1187

This Act requires that any provision of a nondisclosure or confidentiality agreement or nondisclosure or confidentiality provision of an employment agreement, settlement agreement, or any other agreement is void and unenforceable as against the public policy of this state to the extent that such provision prohibits a person, including a party, from disclosing an act of childhood sexual abuse or facts related thereto to another person. The Act further provides for the confidentiality of identifying information of victims of childhood sexual abuse.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 9-11-63.

Effective May 11, 2026.

**TITLE 10
COMMERCE AND TRADE**

Act 377; SB 284

This Act authorizes the Secretary of State to issue orders requiring violators of certain securities laws to repay investors, customers, or clients sums paid in connection with securities purchases. The Act provides for the award of low-wealth capital outlay grants to qualifying local school systems that award certain contracts for roofing improvements to suppliers that meet certain criteria. The Act further provides that certain contracts for roofing improvements be deemed to have complied with notice and competitive award requirements for certain public works construction contracts.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-5-73, 20-2-262, 36-91-2, and 36-91-21.

Effective April 22, 2026, and applicable to all contracts entered into on or after such date.

Act 445; HB 1112

This Act provides for methods of rounding procedures for purchases when using legal tender following the discontinuation of the penny. The Act requires that where offered, a merchant must accept exact change before any rounding. The Act further requires that taxes on such transactions be computed before rounding.

The Act enacts Article 38 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 10-1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 510; SB 439

This Act requires referral agencies making referrals to assisted living communities or personal care homes to conspicuously disclose certain information to a prospective resident or their authorized representative. The Act requires such referral agencies to obtain acknowledgement of receipt of such disclosed information from a prospective resident or their authorized representative. The Act prohibits referral agencies from charging or collecting a fee from an assisted living community or personal care home unless certain conditions are met. The Act further provides for the enforcement of these requirements by the Attorney General.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 10-1-393.22.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 12
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Act 428; HB 956

This Act authorizes funds appropriated to the Solid Waste Trust Fund may be used for the purpose of taking such actions as may be necessary to implement the provisions of a solid waste management program in this state, particularly regarding permitting, monitoring, regulation or guidance development, inspections, and enforcement.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 12-8-27.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 429; HB 983

This Act revises provisions related to prescribed burning. The Act provides that burning for silviculture purposes is exempt from certain notice and permitting requirements. The Act further defines the term "silviculture" as the science and practice of managing the growth, composition, health, and quality of forests.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-6-90, 12-6-147, and 12-6-148.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 513; SB 447

This Act revises certain procedural matters relating to inspection reports by private professional providers that are submitted to local governing authorities. The Act revises procedures and related matters regarding the issuance of building permits and certain applications by local issuing authorities. The Act further requires local governments to provide real-time status information regarding applications for building permits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 8-2-26, 12-7-3, 12-7-9, and 12-7-11 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-60-34.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Veto No. 11; SB 478

This Act establishes a sunset date for the "Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act." The Act also increases the percentage of funds received by this state from certain sales and use taxes to be appropriated to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-6A-2 and 12-6A-5.

**TITLE 14
CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Act 460; HB 1185

This Act permits a corporation's bylaws or articles of incorporation to require that certain shareholder claims, defined as internal entity claims, be brought before the Georgia State-wide Business Court. The Act revises standing requirements for shareholder initiation of derivative proceedings. The Act expands the jurisdiction of the State-wide Business Court by allowing actions to compel the purchase of corporate shares, seek relief related to the protection of shareholders, respond to certain demands for judicial appraisal, and inspect certain business records to be commenced in such court. The Act provides for attorney's fees and costs associated with actions to inspect business records. The Act further allows for the removal of certain claims to the Georgia State-wide Business Court.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 14-1-1, 14-2-202, 14-2-206, 14-2-741, 14-2-746, 14-2-747, 14-2-916, 14-2-940, 14-2-1330, 14-2-1602, 14-2-1604, 14-9-305, 14-9-1002, 14-9-1004, 14-11-313, 14-11-801, 14-11-807, 14-11-1011, 15-5A-3, and 15-5A-4.

Effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to all claims or proceedings initiated on or after such date.

TITLE 15 COURTS

Act 383; HB 530

This Act requires that state probate courts provide for the electronic filing of pleadings and other related documents in any civil matter and the acceptance of electronic payments and remittances by January 1, 2029, pursuant to standards and rules promulgated by the Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 15-9-86.2.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 446; HB 1121

This Act amends the terms of court for the superior courts within the Cordele Judicial Circuit to January 1 and July 1.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-6-3.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 450; HB 1215

This Act adds a twenty-first superior court judge to the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, a sixth superior court judge to the Clayton Judicial Circuit, a third superior court judge to the Middle Judicial Circuit, a sixth superior court judge to the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, and a twelfth superior court judge to the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit, and provides for matters related thereto, including provisions for appointment and election, work and duties, compensation, juries, staff, and facilities. The Act further provides for the selection of the chief judges of the Middle Judicial Circuit and the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-6-2.
Effective May 11, 2026, for purposes of appointing additional judges. Effective January 1, 2027, for all other purposes.

Act 489; SB 218

This Act assigns the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission to the Administrative Office of the Courts and provides for funding to be appropriated through the judicial branch of state government. The Act authorizes such commission to employ investigators and special commission investigators and provides for investigations, limited arrests, and subpoena powers.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-18-32 and enacts Chapter 26 of Title 15.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 499; SB 605

This Act provides for five additional grounds for discipline of a district attorney or solicitor-general or for his or her removal or involuntary retirement from office. The Act specifically provides that (1) Failure to make reasonable efforts to strictly comply with the "Crime Victims' Bill of Rights"; (2) Failure to make reasonable efforts to comply with inspection of public record requirements; (3) Knowingly authorizing or making a decision based upon certain factors; (4) Failure to make reasonable efforts to comply with criminal discovery requirements; and (5) Failure to make reasonable efforts to comply with the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Georgia, are all additional grounds for which a district attorney or solicitor-general may be disciplined, removed, or involuntarily retired.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-18-32.

Effective May 11, 2026, and applicable to all disciplinary proceedings initiated on or after such date.

Act 707; HB 999

This Act increases the jurisdictional limit of magistrate courts for civil claims from \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00 and revises provisions relative to the collection of filing and other fees by magistrate courts. The Act also corrects the automatic repealer provision of HB 426, relating to nonpartisan election of magistrates.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-10-2 and 15-10-80 and Ga. L. 2025, p. 780/HB 426, approved May 14, 2025.

Effective July 1, 2026, except Section 3 shall become effective on January 1, 2027, and shall apply to any actions filed on or after such date.

Act 718; HB 1247

This Act prohibits courts and administrative officers from deferring to agency interpretations of laws and regulations. The Act makes certain records of the General Assembly relating to unlawful employment practices subject to public disclosure and provides for related procedures. The Act revises procedures within the General Assembly relating to objections to proposed agency rules and provides for a review of agency rules every five years. The Act requires state agencies to consider the economic impact of proposed rules. The Act further requires certain organizations that operate shelters or offer services to homeless individuals to participate as authorizing agencies for purposes of the Georgia Homeless Management Information System.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-5B-16, 48-2-18, 48-2-35, 48-2-59, 31-6-21.1, and 50-13-4 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 15-1-24, 28-1-18, 50-13-24, and 50-8-19.

Effective May 12, 2026.

**TITLE 16
CRIMES AND OFFENSES**

Act 380; HB 483

This Act provides enhanced penalties when the offenses of simple assault, aggravated assault, simple battery, battery, or aggravated battery are committed against code enforcement officials.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-19, 16-5-20, 16-5-21, 16-5-23, 16-5-23.1, and 16-5-24. Effective May 5, 2026, and applicable to any offenses committed on or after July 1, 2026.

Act 384; HB 535

This Act amends the threshold amount of fentanyl necessary to constitute illegal trafficking of such substance. The Act revises mandatory minimum departure provisions for defendants convicted of trafficking of certain substances and provides for a statutory sentencing limit applicable to the offense of trafficking in fentanyl. The Act further provides that when any carceral sentence is imposed pursuant to a defendant's probation being revoked, such defendant must receive credit for time served for each day served in confinement since the date of the violation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-13-31 and 42-8-38.

Effective May 5, 2026, except that Section 2 of the Act is effective July 1, 2026. Section 1 of the Act is applicable to offenses committed on or after such date.

Act 390; HB 1329

This Act amends the "Georgia Controlled Substances Act" and the "Dangerous Drug Act" by updating the lists of Schedule I controlled substances and dangerous drugs, respectively.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-13-25 and 16-13-71.

Effective May 5, 2026.

Act 417; SB 547

This Act amends the criminal penalties for the offenses of pimping and pandering to provide that such crimes shall automatically be punished as felony offenses.

This Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-6-13.

Effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to all offenses committed on or after such date.

Act 476; HB 382

This Act requires that in the dispensing of all prescription drug orders, pharmacists shall be physically present and supervising the activities of pharmacy technicians in the licensed area of a pharmacy at all times. The Act allows pharmacy technicians to perform certain technical functions from a remote location. The Act increases the pharmacist to intern and extern supervisory ratio from 1:2 to up to 1:6. The Act provides for the removal of the requirement that the State Board of Pharmacy may only require wholesale drug distributors to accept the return of drugs essential to healthcare treatment if such drugs have an expiration date that is less than one year from the date such drug is manufactured. The Act further amends the definition of "lysergic acid diethylamide," "psilocybin," and "pharmacy technician."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-13-25, 26-4-5, 26-4-82, and 26-4-115.

Effective July 1, 2026, except Sections 2 and 3 of this Act which shall become effective only if drugs containing lysergide tartate and crystalline polymorph psilocybin, respectively, are approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration under Section 505 of the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, scheduled in accordance with its scheduling by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, and listed in the federal Controlled Substances Act, 128 21 U.S.C. Section 812.

Act 495; SB 470

This Act establishes a new criminal offense which prohibits the possession, use, operation, manufacture, sale or offer, distribution, importation, or marketing of signal jammers and requires that penalties imposed for the use or operation of signal jammers impacting public service agencies or critical infrastructure shall not be suspended, stayed, deferred, or withheld by the sentencing court. The Act defines "signal jammer" as meaning any device, instrument, or apparatus which through emitting a signal is capable of preventing, disrupting, delaying, degrading, or otherwise interfering with the transmission of a communication signal over any wireless communications system, cellular communications system, radar system, or global positioning system or any radio, telephone, or cable line, station, or system. The Act further provides for the designation of signal jammers as contraband and for the forfeiture of property used directly or indirectly to commit such offense.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-46.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 496; SB 542

This Act provides for the criminal offenses of improper sexual contact by a clergy member in the first and second degrees and penalties for such offenses. The Act provides for definitions of the terms "clergy", "pastoral counseling", "sexual contact", and "sexually explicit conduct." The Act further provides that such offenses shall be subject to a 15 year statute of limitations.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-6-5.2.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 498; SB 587

This Act provides for a court order to locate an alleged victim of child or elder abuse under certain circumstances. The Act additionally provides for the establishment of a state-wide animal cruelty database to be created, administered, and maintained by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-70, 16-5-102, and 16-12-4.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 512; SB 443

This Act increases the punishment for the offense of obstructing a highway or street from a misdemeanor to a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. The Act provides that obstructing a sidewalk or public passage shall be punishable as a standard misdemeanor. The Act also authorizes civil liability for damages.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-43.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 626; SB 591

This Act prohibits the disruption of a religious service with the intent to impede, disrupt, disturb, or interfere with the orderly conduct of any religious service, funeral, or memorial service. The Act provides that such offense is punishable as a misdemeanor except in instances of disorderly or disruptive conduct at a funeral or memorial service of an individual receiving military funeral honors; in such cases, such offense shall be punishable as an aggravated misdemeanor.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-34.2.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 627; HB 447

This Act establishes the felony offenses of gift card theft, gift card forgery, and gift card fraud. The Act also provides for penalties and definitions.

This Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-9-64.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 712; SB 220

This Act defines the term "medical cannabis," replaces the terms "low THC oil" and "Low THC Oil Patient Registry" with the terms "medical cannabis" and "Medical Cannabis Patient Registry", respectively, in several sections of the O.C.G.A., and clarifies and revises multiple provisions throughout the O.C.G.A. relating to medical cannabis. The Act excludes the lawful possession and control of medical cannabis from the provisions of the "Georgia Controlled Substances Act" and clarifies and revises criminal penalties relating to medical cannabis and exemptions to such penalties. The Act revises the prohibition on certain manners of ingesting medical cannabis. The Act revises the list of diagnosed conditions for which a medical cannabis registration card can be issued and revises provisions related to the renewal of such registration cards. The Act revises the duties of the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-11-36, 2-23-9.2, 2-23-9.3, 16-12-190, 16-12-191, 16-12-200, 16-12-201, 16-12-203, 16-12-204, 16-2-206, 16-12-210 through 16-12-213, 16-12-215 through 16-12-217, 16-12-224 through 16-12-226, 16-12-230, 16-12-231, 16-12-233 through 16-12-235.1, 16-13-21, 16-13-25, 31-2A-18, and 51-1-29.6.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 714; HB 455

This Act modifies the locations where bingo games can be conducted. The Act limits the number of bingo game sessions that can be conducted per day and per month. The Act increases the prize amounts permitted per calendar week. The Act also limits the compensation paid to a person or organization assisting in the conduction of bingo games.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-12-53, 16-12-57, and 16-12-60.
Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 17
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

Act 482; HB 1131

This Act authorizes personal service of a notice of a warrant application hearing. The Act reduces the amount of cash escrow that certain professional bonding companies are required to have on deposit from \$1 million to \$500,000.00. The Act also exempts cash bonds by natural persons on behalf of family members from certain annual limits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 17-4-40, 17-4-41, and 17-6-15.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 717; HB 1075

This Act provides that if a person is convicted of a fourth or subsequent qualifying misdemeanor within a ten-year period, he or she shall be deemed to have committed a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than one year nor more than ten years.

This Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 17-10-3.2.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Veto No. 10; SB 204

This Act provides for a lawful weapons carrier subject to or aggrieved by an unlawful act regarding the possession, carrying, transportation, or storage of firearms and other weapons to have standing to bring an action in mandamus or other legal proceeding against a public entity or public officer or a civil action for personal, property, or economic damage. The Act authorizes a district attorney to charge by accusation rather than indictment, those offenses that are not serious violent felonies, sexual felonies, and certain offenses regarding firearms and weapons, racketeering, and criminal gang activity.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-11-173 and 17-7-70.1.

**TITLE 19
DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

Act 421; SB 383

This Act modifies the reviews to be performed by local child fatality review committees to identify opportunities for intervention and to make recommendations for measures to prevent future deaths in similar incidents. The Act adds members to such committees, requires attendance for training, and clarifies the scope of child deaths subject to review. The Act provides for notification requirements, reporting requirements, and procedures of the coroner or medical examiner and the review committee related to child deaths.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 19-15-3 and 19-15-4.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 639; HB 350

This Act expands the locations where a newborn no more than 45 days old can be left without facing criminal penalties for such act to include public safety vehicles, ambulance services, and newborn safety devices. The Act shields from prosecution an individual assisting or acting at the direction of a mother abandoning a newborn to certain authorized places. The Act authorizes the installation of newborn safety devices with security cameras and dual alarm systems for receiving abandoned newborns.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Chapter 19-10A.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 719; HB 1283

This Act authorizes the creation of Family Justice Centers that provide coordinated governmental and community based services to victims of family violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking, and associated crimes. The Act provides for such centers to be organized and operated by a county or municipal government, district attorney's office, or nonprofit corporation. The Act further provides for guidance on organizational structure, memorandums of understanding, space, duties, immunities for law enforcement personnel, confidentiality, service provision, bylaws, funding, and reports. The Act extends the time for the maintenance of physical evidence of alleged sexual assaults. The Act clarifies the possession, custody, or control of records, reports, notes, data, or materials at Family Justice Centers so as to provide for protection for public disclosure and discovery rules.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 17-5-71, 17-16-2, and 17-16-20 and enacts Article 5 of Chapter 19-13.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Veto No. 7; HB 1409

This Act revises mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse to include firefighters and animal service workers. The Act provides for the method the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services receives reports of suspected child abuse. The Act also requires any claim of an unlawful employment practice against a member of the General Assembly to be subject to public disclosure.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 19-7-5 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 28-1-18.

**TITLE 20
EDUCATION**

Act 389; HB 1293

This Act provides for the Dual Achievement Program to become a permanent program by repealing a sunset provision. The Act revises eligibility requirements for the program while also allowing students already enrolled to continue in the program. The Act also revises the procedures for the development of a funding formula for the program.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-4-140, 20-4-141, and 20-4-142 and repeals Section 20-4-141.1.

Effective May 5, 2026.

Act 391; HB 1193

This Act provides for comprehensive early literacy education throughout the state that is aligned to the science of reading. The Act provides for state funding, in the form of reimbursement grants, for a school based literacy coach in each public school with students in kindergarten to third grade. The Act provides that regional literacy coaches and leadership literacy coaches based in Georgia's 16 regional educational service agencies (RESAs) will work side-by-side with school based literacy coaches and school leaders throughout the state. The Act provides that comprehensive curriculum based professional learning to support teachers and literacy coaches in applying the science of reading into instructional practices will be available at no cost to teachers of kindergarten to third grade and literacy coaches. The Act requires high quality instructional materials (HQIM) aligned to the science of reading for literacy instruction in kindergarten through third grade. The Act establishes the Georgia Literacy Task Force within the Office of Student Achievement (which will be reconstituted as the Office of Education and Workforce Strategy on July 1, 2026, pursuant to Act 474/HB 1302) and provides for the Georgia Literacy Task Force to play an integral role in selecting high-quality instructional materials (HQIM), comprehensive professional learning, and universal reading screeners. The Act encourages attendance of school by age five and includes new and enhanced rules for placement, promotion, and retention for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade. The Act requires school systems to adopt unified literacy plans; requires ongoing evaluation of state approved educator preparation programs; and abolishes the Georgia Council on Literacy on December 31, 2026.

This Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-1-45, 20-2-150, 20-2-151, 20-2-153.1, 20-2-283 through 20-2-285, 20-2-690.1, and 20-2-1010, and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-186.1, 20-2-208.2, 20-2-270.3, 20-2-1015.1, and Article 4 of Chapter 20-14.

Effective May 5, 2026.

Act 392; HB 907

This Act requires local school systems to provide certain education programs and services or to be a party to collaborative operating agreements with completion special schools. The Act provides for the direct enrollment of a student in a completion special school. The Act provides for the collection and distribution of information regarding programs available at affiliated completion special schools. The Act requires local school systems to share information about certain absent students with affiliated completion special schools.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-2096.3 and 20-2-2096.7 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-2096.9.

Effective May 5, 2026.

Act 393; HB 1123

This Act requires public schools that offer after-school programs to make such programs available to students enrolled in the school's pre-kindergarten programs on the same basis as the

school's other students, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. The Act also establishes a procedure for requesting a waiver of such requirement.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-308.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 394; HB 1030

This Act provides for math instruction and standards at the elementary and secondary level and requirements for teacher certification programs for math instruction. The Act mandates minimum core math instructional time for students in grades four and five and requires the State Board of Education to adopt content standards for advanced math courses for grades eight through ten. The Act provides for automatic enrollment of certain students in advanced math courses and for local requirements for such courses. The Act requires the Professional Standards Commission to establish standards for effective teaching, instruction, and intervention for math knowledge and skills.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-984 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-153.2.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 395; HB 1009

This Act prohibits access to personal electronic devices by public school students in grades nine through 12 during the school day, with certain exceptions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-324.8.

Effective December 31, 2026.

Act 396; HB 1107

This Act requires the Professional Standards Commission to develop and report annual aggregate performance measures that evaluate the performance of each educator preparation provider (EPP) in the state. The Act provides for minimum contents of EPP performance measures and the publication of such measures. The Act provides for satisfaction surveys and the annual review of certain performance measures. The Act also requires the Office of Student Achievement to include a summary of EPP performance measures in its annual report on the Georgia educator workforce.

This Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-988.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 397; HB 1284

This Act establishes a procedure for local boards of education to award high school diplomas to high school students who have received a medical diagnosis of a terminal condition and are receiving end-of-life care.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-70.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 398; SB 148

This Act authorizes local boards of education to provide instruction in hunting safety for grades six through 12 and provides for the adoption of content standards by the State Board of Education. The Act further provides for the establishment of a pilot program for the development and study of outdoor learning spaces on elementary and secondary school property. The Act removes the requirement for the involvement of a physician with a school's automated external defibrillator program. The Act increases the number of accumulated sick leave days teachers and other school personnel may utilize during a school year.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-308, 20-2-775, and 20-2-851 and enacts O.C.G.A. Part 4 of Article 11 of Chapter 20-2.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 402; SB 523

This Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion in any public school in the state, including public elementary and secondary schools and public postsecondary educational institutions. The Act provides that no person in this state shall, on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity or in employment practices conducted by any public school that receives federal or state financial assistance. The Act requires the Department of Education to designate a state-wide K-12 Title VI Coordinator dedicated to monitoring complaints of discrimination and harassment in public elementary and secondary schools in accordance with certain federal and state nondiscrimination laws, rules, and regulations. The Act provides for the duties and responsibilities of the state-wide K-12 Title VI Coordinator. The Act provides for corrective and enforcement actions for noncompliant public elementary and secondary schools. The Act requires the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to ensure that each of its institutions or units, respectively, has established policies and procedures for the submission, handling, and documentation of complaints alleging that a person has been excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity or in employment practices. The Act makes the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia responsible for corrective actions for noncompliance by its institutions or units, respectively.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-1-13, 20-2-324.10, 20-3-40.1, and 20-4-39.1.

Effective May 5, 2026.

Act 463; HB 328

This Act provides for students with an Individualized Educational Program, a Section 504 plan, or who have been diagnosed with an intellectual and developmental disability or whose parent is active duty military to be exempt from the public school enrollment requirement for eligibility for scholarships from a student scholarship organization. The Act further provides for the maximum scholarship amount given by student scholarship organizations for such students. The Act raises the aggregate amount of tax credits allowed to nonprofit organizations to \$15 million per calendar year, raises the cap to \$150 million on the total tax credits allowed to be claimed for contributions

to student scholarship organizations, and changes the formula for maximum tax credits allowable to business enterprises for such contributions. The Act prohibits members of the General Assembly or their spouses from receiving any income from a student scholarship organization in a taxable year in which such organization received contributions for which a tax credit was allowed. The Act prohibits a local school system from offering virtual school instruction to out-of-system students if the local school system or its virtual school has failed to maintain an average of 65 or above on the College and Career Ready Performance Index over the previous two school years. The Act prohibits the use of special district mass transportation sales and use taxes from being used to provide free or reduced fares for public transit services. The Act prohibits a vote on the imposition of a new special district for transit purposes sales and use tax (Transit SPLOST) for a nonattainment area within eight years from the date of the previous special election on the same question.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2A-1, 20-2A-2, 20-2A-5, 20-2-167.2, 48-7-29.16, 48-7-29.21, 48-8-260, 48-8-269.46 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2A-2.2.

Effective July 1, 2026, and all sections of the Act except for Section 5 shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

Act 468; SB 556

This Act establishes the DREAMS scholarship. The Act provides for the inclusion of advanced fine arts courses in the calculation of grade point averages for determining student eligibility for the HOPE scholarships and other scholarships. The Act requires the possession of opioid antagonists by institutions within the University System of Georgia and units within the Technical College System of Georgia and provides for possession of opioid antagonists by certain individuals. The Act establishes a scholarship for students enrolled medical school. The Act modifies the maximum contribution limit for savings trust accounts under the Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan. The Act creates a deduction from taxable net income for contributions to certain qualified tuition programs. The Act excludes part-time students from membership in the Georgia Defined Contribution Plan. The Act modifies provisions relating to the minimum reserve amount of the lottery shortfall reserve.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-157, 20-3-364, 31-2A-20, 47-22-1, 48-7-27, and 50-27-13; redesignates O.C.G.A. Part 6 of Article 7 of Chapter 20-3 as new Subpart 2 of Article 7 of Chapter 20-3; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-88, Subpart 2B of Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 20-3, Subpart 1 Part 6 of Article 7 of Chapter 20-3, and 20-4-39.1.

Effective July 1, 2026, except that Part V of the Act is effective May 11, 2026. Parts I and IV of the Act are applicable to all academic years beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, and Part VII is applicable to all fiscal years beginning in Fiscal Year 2027.

Act 469; HB 1328

This Act provides an increase in the number of University of North Georgia military scholarships awarded to persons from each congressional district in Georgia. The Act authorizes additional such scholarships to be awarded if funding is available and provides requirements for additional scholarships to be awarded.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-422 and 20-3-423.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 470; HB 541

This Act expands the definition of the term "approved school" so as to include a qualified proprietary institution of higher education offering a baccalaureate degree program in nursing as those institutions which are eligible for tuition equalization grants (TEGs).

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-3-411.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 471; SB 432

This Act extends the automatic repeal of certain Code sections regarding nonlapsing funds for the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia to July 1, 2031. The Act extends the current period for providing a mechanism to administratively discharge certain obligations for all state agencies and departments, the University System of Georgia, and the Technical College System of Georgia to July 1, 2031, and delays the implementation of a new system to create such mechanism until July 1, 2031.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-86, 20-4-21.1, and 50-16-18.

Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 474; HB 1302

This Act provides a framework for aligning this state's education system, this state's adult workforce training programs, and regional labor market needs. The Act reconstitutes the Office of Student Achievement as the Office of Education and Workforce Strategy with expanded duties, recasts the High Demand Apprenticeship Program as the Top State for Talent Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Program, and revises certain related provisions. The Act also provides for a combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan and Perkins State Plan and designates the Technical College System of Georgia as the state apprenticeship agency.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-1-42, 20-1-44, 20-1A-10, 20-2-73, 20-2-82, 20-2-84, 20-2-84.1, 20-2-84.2, 20-2-86, 20-2-153, 20-2-153.1, 20-2-154.1, 20-2-161.4, 20-2-167, 20-2-169, 20-2-210, 20-2-212.5, 20-2-251, 20-2-271, 20-2-281, 20-2-283, 20-2-286, 20-2-306, 20-2-320, 20-2-327, 20-2-327.1, 20-2-2062, 20-2-2096.3, 20-2-2118, 20-2A-1, 20-2B-29, 20-4-17, 20-4-37, 20-4-141.1, 20-4-150 through 20-4-154, 20-4-156, 20-4-160 through 20-4-162, 20-14-6, 20-14-8, 20-14-20, 20-14-25, 20-14-26, 20-14-27, 20-14-29, 20-14-34, 20-14-35, 20-14-37, 20-14-43, 20-14-45, 20-14-50, 20-14-60, 20-14-70, 20-14-91, 20-14-96, 34-14-1, 34-14-3 through 34-14-5, 50-18-72; repeals Article 1 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 20-14 and O.C.G.A. Section 34-14-5; and enacts Article 10 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 20-4 and O.C.G.A. Sections 20-14-29.1 through 20-14-29.4.

Effective July 1, 2026, except Section 19 of the Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

Act 494; SB 431

This Act provides for duties of receiving schools relative to the enrollment of foster care students. The Act establishes reporting requirements for RESA student affairs officers and creates a distinction for inclusive postsecondary education grant for education award amounts between students enrolled in public and private postsecondary institutions. The Act provides for and revises various definitions relative to education and provides for distinctions between a school day and school business day.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-1-11, 20-2-315, 20-2-324.6, 20-2-662, 20-2-667, 20-2-670, 20-2-697, 20-2-720, 20-2-786, 20-2-2064, and 20-3-494 and repeals and reenacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-1-9.

Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 497; SB 552

This Act permits public school students to engage in political expression. The Act prohibits public schools from denying equal access to limited public forums. The Act requires public schools to provide equal access to political groups.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-706.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 504; SB 369

This Act requires the State Board of Education to establish definitions, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures relating to the operation of certain nontraditional education programs and services. The Act allows for virtual school students to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities at their resident school in certain circumstances. The Act requires local boards of education and other public school governing bodies to consider the total costs of ownership of certain school technology devices. The Act provides for locally authorized dropout recovery charter schools and the conversion of certain existing charter schools to dropout recovery charter schools. The Act also revises provisions related to the granting of charter school petitions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-319.6, 20-2-2062, 20-2-2063, 20-2-2063.3, 20-2-2064.2, 20-2-2065, 20-2-2069, 20-2-2081, 20-2-2085, and 20-2-2088.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-154.4 and 20-2-1018.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 625; SB 179

This Act requires a computer science course to be a high school graduation requirement beginning in the 2031-2032 school year. The Act also allows representatives of patriotic societies to speak to students during school hours if the patriotic society submits a written request. The Act also provides for a nonpublic institution that solely provides virtual instruction to be considered a private school.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-149.3, 20-2-319.1, and 20-2-690 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-324.10.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 632; HB 1379

This Act requires annual reporting by universities, colleges, local school systems, and other public schools in Georgia on funding such entities received from certain foreign sources. The Act provides a definition of a "foreign source of concern" which includes a foreign country of concern, a foreign entity of concern, or a foreign individual of concern. The Act also provides for the requirements and method of annual reporting.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-1-13 and repeals O.C.G.A. Section 20-3-84.

Effective July 1, 2026, except Section 3 of the Act shall become effective January 1, 2027.

Act 633; SB 589

This Act allows parents and guardians to enroll their children who have attained the age of four or five in a voluntary pre-kindergarten program provided and operated as part of Georgia's Pre-K program. The Act further allows parents or guardians of students who are eligible for initial public school enrollment in first grade to elect for their children to be enrolled in kindergarten rather than first grade. The Act requires the printing of suicide and crisis lifeline information on student identification badges issued on or after July 1, 2026.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-150 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-779.5.

Effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to all school years beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Act 721; HB 1164

This Act creates an audit committee to review the financial condition of the state's public education system and certain public schools. The Act requires local school systems and state charter schools to provide annual financial audit reports and related certifications. The Act sets forth procedures for identifying and performing audits of local school systems and state charter schools that are deemed moderate-risk or high-risk with respect to their financial condition. The Act requires flexibility contracts and charters to include a provision authorizing unilateral termination of such contracts or charters if the system or school is designated high-risk. The Act prohibits a superintendent employment contract of more than 12 months if the local school system has been designated high-risk. The Act requires the Office of Student Achievement to make annual reports regarding elementary and secondary education and authorizes performance audits. The Act requires the Department of Audits and Accounts to develop a program for auditing, monitoring, and supporting the financial condition of local school systems and state charter schools, including the creation of a tiered assessment framework. The Act also authorizes the state auditor to investigate local school systems and state charter schools.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-6, 20-2-67, 20-2-83, 20-2-101, 20-2-2063.2, 20-14-27, 20-14-35, 20-14-49.11, 20-14-49.13, 50-6-6, and 50-6-28 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-6-6.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 722; SB 472

This Act provides for the Department of Audits and Accounts to create rules and procedures that require financial accountability and state auditor intervention plans for local boards of education and for the suspension of members of local boards of education following findings by the state auditor regarding financial mismanagement or misconduct. The Act further provides for a cap on the total amount of advance distributions of state allotted funds that may be made by the State Board of Education to local units of administration.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-73, 20-2-101, 20-2-166, 20-2-370, 20-2-371, 20-2-372, 50-6-6, and 50-6-28,

Effective May 12, 2026.

**TITLE 21
ELECTIONS**

Act 438; HB 414

This Act revises the definition of "person" to include a nonresident who commits an act or omission or transacts business within the State of Georgia. The Act authorizes the State Ethics Commission to obtain certain documentation or information. The Act further establishes venue for certain civil violations of nonresidents of the state.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 21-5-3, 21-5-6, and 21-5-8.
Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 710; HB 369

This Act mandates and establishes procedures for nonpartisan elections for any office elected by the electors of a county, subject to certain exceptions, and for the office of district attorney in any judicial circuit comprised solely of a county in which the elected office of county coroner has been abolished.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-132 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-140
Effective January 1, 2028.

**TITLE 25
FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY**

Act 443; HB 1086

This Act requires that the owner of any commercial or industrial building or structure, or any multiunit residential building or structure of three units or more, that uses light-frame truss-type construction or engineered I-joists shall post a notice of the existence of such structural elements. The Act provides for the Safety Fire Commissioner, the state fire marshal, and local fire marshals to enforce such requirement.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 25-2-13.1.
Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 26
FOOD, DRUGS, AND COSMETICS**

Act 426; HB 117

This Act requires all food service establishments in the state, except those operated by state agencies, that serve foreign imported shrimp to display a disclosure by each item that contains foreign imported shrimp or on placards visible to the public.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 26-2-378.1.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 433; SB 551

This Act repeals and reserves the article relating to the standards, labeling, and adulteration of eggs in its entirety.

The Act repeals Article 8 of Chapter 26-2.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 27
GAME AND FISH**

Act 479; HB 946

This Act authorizes the trapping of feral hogs without a hunting or trapping license, provided that such hogs shall be killed upon capture. The Act further authorizes the location of feral hogs with unmanned aircraft systems.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 27-2-1, 27-2-31, and 27-3-13.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 508; SB 420

This Act provides for fees for reef and migratory fish endorsements for recreational and commercial fishing. The Act requires individuals who hold such endorsements to report information as required by the Department of Natural Resources. The Act extends the effective date for criminal violations of rules and regulations prescribed by the Department of Natural Resources.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-2-2, 27-1-39, 27-2-23, and 52-7-26.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 28
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Act 372; HB 973

This Act amends the 2025-2026 "General Appropriations Act" to provide for changes and supplement appropriations for State Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Effective March 3, 2026.

Act 655; HB 974

This Act, the "General Appropriations Act," provides for the operation of state government for State Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Effective April 7, 2026.

Act 723; HB 1268

This Act makes extensive editorial amendments to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to correct typographical, stylistic, capitalization, punctuation, and other errors and omissions and reenacts the statutory portion of the Code as so amended.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 30
HANDICAPPED**

Act 440; HB 668

This Act provides for criminal penalties related to interfering with or harming service dogs and restitution for costs of veterinary treatment and replacement of such dogs. The Act provides for rights and responsibilities related to training of service dogs. The Act provides for criminal penalties for certain fraudulent uses of service dogs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-11-107.1, 16-12-120, 30-4-1 through 30-4-4, and 40-6-94.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 31
HEALTH**

Act 385; HB 659

This Act allows for the administration of GLP-1 at personal care homes. The Act adds eligibility of optometrists for certain grant programs and service cancelable loan programs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-7-12, 31-7-12.2, 31-34-2, 31-34-4, 31-34-4.1, and 31-34-5.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 409; SB 195

This Act authorizes pharmacists to administer preexposure prophylaxis and postexposure prophylaxis for the treatment of HIV and other infections. The Act sets forth training, dispensing, and administration requirements for such treatments. The Act authorizes physicians to prescribe long-acting injectables for the treatment of HIV and other infections and sets forth required documentation and administration protocols.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 26-4-120 and 43-34-26.2.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 447; HB 1138

This Act authorizes licensed pharmacists to dispense a self-administered contraceptive or to administer an injectable contraceptive under specific guidelines and requirements. The Act

provides for minimum supplies of a covered contraceptive drug under a health benefit policy that is delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this state, and provides for covered contraceptive drug minimums to be provided to Medicaid recipients. The Act requires the Department of Public Health and the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy to issue a written joint protocol agreement which provides guidelines and requirements for pharmacists to dispense self-administered contraceptives and to administer injectable contraceptives without a patient-specific written order. The Act further provides additional requirements for pharmacists before dispensing or administering any self-administered contraceptive or injectable contraceptive under the written joint protocol.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 26-4-53, 33-24-59.37, and 49-4-159.5.

Effective January 1, 2027, and shall apply to all applicable insurance policies issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after that date.

Act 462; SB 111

This Act permits rural freestanding emergency departments to qualify for certain tax credits. The Act requires rural hospital organizations to maintain a primary campus in a rural county and be licensed by the department to provide maternal and newborn services, and lowers the percentage of annual net revenue categorized as indigent care, charity care, or bad debt from at least 10 percent to 5 percent. The Act removes patient margin requirements.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-8-9.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 481; HB 1096

This Act provides that certain employees of a county board of health who become employees of the Department of Public Health will retain seniority for accrued annual and sick leave. The Act prohibits the county board of health from paying an employee accrued leave when transitioning to state employment. The Act provides for rules and regulations.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 31-2A-3.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 487; SB 170

This Act requires that the Department of Community Health create a grant program, subject to appropriations or other available funding, for the purpose of providing funding to certain rural hospitals for the acquisition or installation of backup generators to ensure continuity of operation during a state of emergency.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 31-2-20.

Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 492; SB 428

This Act authorizes the Department of Community Health to submit by December 31, 2026, a waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to authorize the qualification for Medicaid reimbursement of home and community based services for recipients of medical assistance who are over the age of 21 and in need of mental health services but do not require an institutional level of care. The Act directs that, upon approval of such waiver request,

the Department of Community Health shall take all necessary steps to provide for payment of such services with Medicaid funds.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 49-4-142.6.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 506; SB 395

This Act authorizes the Department of Public Health to disclose certain information regarding the Low THC Oil Patient Registry to the Georgia Composite Medical Board. The Act designates ambulance services as an essential service.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-2A-18 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 31-11-13.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 507; SB 399

This Act requires all automated external defibrillator instructors to complete a nationally recognized instructor course. The Act requires communication officers to complete training in the delivery of high-quality telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation and instructions to facilitate the use of automated external defibrillators in addition to other basic training requirements.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-11-53.1 and 35-8-23.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 32
HIGHWAYS**

Act 454; HB 1277

This Act increases the project cost threshold for public roads or airports requiring environmental evaluation from \$100 million to \$200 million and authorizes annual adjustments based on inflation. The Act requires annual reports regarding the investment of public funds in transportation, public-private partnership projects, design-build projects, and projects undertaken using alternative contracting methods, and eliminates the requirement for biennial reporting of potential undertakings that are best suited for public-private partnerships. The Act requires the Department of Transportation to maintain a website detailing transportation projects. The Act removes requirements relating to value engineering studies and annual limits on the design-build projects that may be awarded by the Department of Transportation. The Act increases the property value threshold requirements relating to the sale of property no longer needed for public road purposes from \$75,000.00 to \$100,000.00 and authorizes annual adjustments based on inflation. The Act sets forth procedures and requirements for the sale of property that is no longer needed for public road purposes. The Act updates definitions relating to electric vehicles and extends the effective date of provisions relating to the Department of Agriculture and taxation of electricity delivered by electric vehicle charging stations to January 1, 2028.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-16-9, 32-2-41.2, 32-2-43, 32-2-69, 32-2-79, 32-2-80, 32-2-81, 32-2-82, 32-7-4, 46-2-20.1, and Ga. L. 2023, p. 376/SB 146, approved May 2, 2023, as amended, and repeals O.C.G.A. Section 32-2-79.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 33
INSURANCE**

Act 406; HB 1374

This Act provides for requirements for a health insurance plan or its contracted vendor or a care management organization to initiate or change payment methodology to a healthcare provider using electronic funds transfer payments and restricts related fees that may be charged. The Act allows for prequalification of suppliers of services, goods, materials, and equipment to the state only by following the rules and regulations established by the Department of Administrative Services. The Act prohibits renewal or extension of state purchase contracts effectuated without competitive bidding solely because the contract price did not exceed a threshold amount required for competitive bidding for a contract price that exceeds such threshold amount.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-24-59.24 and 50-5-68 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-5-69.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 411; SB 444

This Act provides for private review agents and utilization review entities to use artificial intelligence systems, artificial intelligence, or other software tools in accordance with standards for utilization review. The Act prohibits such systems from issuing an adverse determination to a patient until a natural person qualifying as a private review agent or a utilization review entity conducts a utilization review in which a clinical peer participates.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-46-7.1.

Effective January 1, 2027.

Act 516; SB 503

This Act requires that state health benefit plans, policies, or contracts cover medically necessary orthotic devices and prosthetic devices and their materials and components.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-59.35.

Effective on the later of the date for which the appropriation act providing funds specifically for the purposes of this Act becomes effective or the first day of the beginning of the fiscal year for which funds are appropriated specifically for the purposes of this Act.

Act 624; HB 506

This Act requires healthcare plans to cover emergency transport services when such services are requested by a first responder. The Act also provides for procedures for claims regarding such services and for requirements relating to payments and reimbursement rates for such services.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-20E-23.

Effective January 1, 2027.

Act 635; HB 1344

This Act makes various changes to state law governing insurance relating to coverage, rate increases, and business practices. The Act creates felony criminal offenses related to improper referrals related to insurance claims. The Act authorizes the Department of Economic Development to pursue recruitment and retention of insurers to this state. The Act allows the Commissioner of Insurance to make changes to the handling of certain property claims following a catastrophic event. The Act also revises provisions related to the confidential treatment of certain personally identifiable information of current and former judges. The Act also revises provisions related to the form of tender accepted in judicial foreclosure sales and the qualifications of special masters in certain quiet title actions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 9-13-166, 15-5-110, 15-5-112, 23-3-63, 33-1-9, 33-1-9.1, 33-1-15 through 33-1-17, 33-6-8, 33-6-9, 33-7-6, 33-8-8.2, 33-8-9, 33-9-38, 33-15-122, 33-22-3, 33-22-6, 33-22-14, 33-23-12, 33-24-19.1, 33-24-44, 33-31-12, 33-34A-11, 33-36-19, 33-37-6, 33-37-22, 33-37-32, 33-38-21, 33-39-19, 33-47-7, 33-59-6, 33-59-16, 33-63-9, 33-64-2, 33-65-8, and 40-2-137; repeals O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-53; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 33-1-9.2, 33-1-28, 33-3-28.1, 33-9-45, and 33-24-59.37 and Article 3 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 33-32.

Effective January 1, 2027, and applicable to all applicable policies, contracts, and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after such date and all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

**TITLE 34
LABOR**

Act 386; HB 1015

This Act increases the maximum funding amount by assessments for the Self-insurers Guaranty Trust Fund. The Act increases the minimum threshold for such trust fund that allows for the levy of a special assessment.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 34-9-386.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 466; HB 987

This Act provides for portable benefit accounts for independent contractors and establishes requirements relating to contributions to such accounts.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 34-8-43.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 35
LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Act 403; HB 162

This Act revises when records relating to a person sentenced under the First Offender Act are sealed. The Act further requires sentences under the First Offender Act to remain sealed unless the status is revoked.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-3-34, 33-3-35, and 42-8-62.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 42-8-62.2.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 419; HB 1202

This Act corrects a cross-reference relative to duties of the Georgia Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Advisory Board in soliciting, reviewing, and making recommendations regarding applications for grants authorized under O.C.G.A. 35-6A-16.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 35-6A-17.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 422; HB 549

This Act restricts the reimbursement of training expenses for the training of peace officers to the actual cost of any equipment and materials used in the training; the salary paid during the peace officer's basic training and any housing, meal, and transportation costs incurred during that time; and up to 90 days of salary paid during the time a peace officer participated in a field training program. The Act extends the time for a peace officer to be hired by another agency for the purposes of claiming this reimbursement from 15 months to 36 months.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 35-8-22.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 423; SB 433

This Act provides for special license plates for persons with autism spectrum disorder or a developmental disability or for such person's spouse, parent, or legal guardian. The Act further requires that the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council collaborate with the Department of Community Health, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and certain nonprofit organizations to develop a mandatory basic training course for peace officers relating to encounters with persons with autism spectrum disorder or a developmental disability.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-75 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 35-8-28.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 36
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Act 437; HB 244

This Act revises annual audit requirements for units of local government. The Act requires that certain public officers and employees assist counties in complying with such audit requirements and provides for the temporary withholding of compensation for such officers for failures to assist counties in complying with such requirements.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-81-7.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 459; HB 1129

This Act removes the state sales and use tax exemption qualifications for certain enterprise zones and limits the use of principal from revenue bonds issued for development or infrastructure within enterprise zones. The Act prohibits the designation of more than four enterprise zones in a county.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-88-6.

Effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to enterprise zones designated on and after such date.

Act 486; SB 146

This Act creates legal mechanisms for individuals to access, visit, maintain, and discover ancestral burial grounds located on private land. The Act enhances protection against the destruction or disruption of burial sites. The Act creates minimum requirements for the establishment of family burial plots. The Act provides civil remedies for the failure to obtain permits for the establishment of a family burial plot.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-10-1, 31-10-20, 31-21-6, 36-72-2 through 36-72-17, and 44-12-283; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 36-72-15.1, 36-72A-1 through 36-72A-8, and 44-10-50 through 44-10-53.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 511; SB 441

This Act requires the preapproval of the State Depository Board for any pooled investment for the collective investment of two or more local governments.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-83-8.

Effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to pooled investments made on or after such date.

Act 637; HB 304

This Act establishes the office of senior municipal court judge of this state. The Act provides for qualifications of and requirements for municipal court judges. The Act also establishes the Georgia Municipal Court Clerks' Council.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-32-40 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 36-32-42 and 36-32-50.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 713; HB 295

This Act creates procedures for real property owners to file administrative claims for compensation from local governments for loss of property value or expenses incurred due to a local government's failure to comply with or nonenforcement of certain laws, ordinances, and resolutions or due to the local government maintaining a public nuisance. The Act suspends applicable statutes of limitations during the pendency of such actions and waives the sovereign immunity of local governments to the extent necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Act. The Act provides for judicial relief, including the ability to petition the superior court for mandamus relief, against local governments violating the prohibition on immigration sanctuary policies and failing to comply with immigration detainer notices.

The Act amends Sections 36-80-23 and 42-1-11.5 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-60-64.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 37
MENTAL HEALTH**

Act 412; SB 535

This Act re-creates public mental health community service boards and reconstitutes the governing bodies of such boards so as to require that each such board contain an executive director, who shall be appointed by the commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities and considered an employee of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The Act further provides for powers, duties, and responsibilities of community service boards, their governing bodies, and executive directors.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 37-1-1, 37-2-2, 37-2-6, 37-2-6.1, 37-2-6.4, 37-2-6.5, 37-2-11.1, and 50-14-1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 444; HB 1097

This Act provides for criminal history background checks and checks of certain other records and registries for certain individuals who provide care to children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities and for owners, employees, and applicants of certain facilities.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 35-3-34.2 and 37-1-28 and enacts Article 8 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 37-1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 38
MILITARY**

Act 441; HB 985

This Act clarifies eligibility requirements for burial in Georgia veteran cemeteries. The Act further provides for eligibility for burial in Georgia veteran cemeteries for Georgia residents who

honorably served with a Hmong Laotian guerrilla unit in support of the United States Armed Forces at any time between 1961 and 1975.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. 38-4-70.

Effective July 1, 2026.

TITLE 39 MINORS

Act 518; SB 540

This Act provides requirements for operators of AI companion chatbots, including requirements relating to disclosures, age verification, measures relating to use of the AI companion chatbots by minors, and protocols for addressing severe harm and emotional crises. The Act provides for AI companion chatbots operated by licensed mental health, behavioral health, medical, and other counseling professionals. The Act provides for enforcement by the Attorney General.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 39-5-6.

Effective July 1, 2027.

TITLE 40 MOTOR VEHICLES

Act 400; HB 1181

This Act allows for the registration of a vehicle obtained through inheritance, devise, or bequest. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-3-21 and 40-3-34.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 418; SB 160

This Act authorizes and regulates intelligent speed assistance device limited driving permits for certain persons whose driver's license was suspended upon a conviction for reckless stunt driving. The Act also provides for the certification of intelligent speed assistance devices and provides for the regulation of such devices and governmental and private entities providing such devices.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-5-1, 40-5-57.2, 42-3-111, and 43-12A-1 through 43-12A-9; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 40-5-64.2 and 42-8-130 through 42-8-134.

Effective July 1, 2028.

Act 420; HB 944

This Act revises the definition of "present regulations" relative to the safe operation of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles so as to incorporate the federal regulations promulgated under 49 C.F.R. that are in force and effect on January 1, 2026, rather than on January 1, 2025.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-1-8.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 442; HB 986

This Act revises the maximum speed for personal delivery devices from four to seven miles per hour while on a sidewalk, crosswalk, or similar path and further requires an audible sound while in motion within six feet of a vehicle, person on foot, or individual in a wheelchair.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-6-321 and 40-6-322.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 485; SB 76

This Act extends eligibility for special veteran license plates to recipients of certain additional military medal awards and revises provisions relative to registration fees for such license plates. The Act provides for a specialty license plate for United States Navy submarine service members. The Act allows for the operation of multipurpose off-highway vehicles on all highways with a maximum speed limit of 60 miles per hour or less.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-85.1 and 40-6-362 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-85.5.
Effective July 1, 2027.

Act 503; SB 293

This Act revises penalties for certain offenses relating to license plates, revalidation decals, temporary operating permits, certificates of registration, certificates of title, and alteration of odometers. The Act increases the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony for any person or firm to make, sell, or issue any license plate or revalidation decal. The Act provides for felony punishment for a person who knowingly falsifies the odometer reading on a certificate of title, or makes any false statements in any certificate of title application as to the date a vehicle was sold or acquired or as to the date of creation of a security interest lien. The Act requires temporary operating permits to contain the vehicle identification number of the vehicle the permit is assigned to and requires dealer license plates to be of metal material. The Act further requires the state revenue commissioner to prepare annual reports to the General Assembly relating to incidences of fraud relating to dealers, dealer license plates, and temporary operating permits. The Act provides for limited and specific operating permits for the operation of an unregistered vehicle. The Act provides that the State Board of Registration of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and Used Motor Vehicle Parts Dealers be subject to the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act and further provides requirements for licensure as a used motor vehicle dealer or used motor vehicle parts dealer.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-4 through 40-2-7, 40-2-8.1, 40-2-29, 40-2-38, 40-2-41, 40-3-90, 40-3-91, 40-8-5, 43-47-8, and 43-47-17, repeals and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-110, and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-47-6.1.

Effective July 1, 2026, except Part IA which shall become effective January 1, 2027.

Act 505; SB 384

This Act authorizes an optional five-year motor vehicle registration and revalidation for certain motor vehicles and provides for related procedures and requirements.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-9-45, 12-9-51, 12-9-55, 40-1-9, 40-2-1, 40-2-20, 40-2-21, 40-2-34, 40-2-42, 40-2-60 through 40-2-63, 40-2-64 through 40-2-67, 40-2-81, 40-2-84,

40-2-85 through 40-2-85.3, 40-2-86, 40-2-86.1, and 40-2-151 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-10.1 and 40-2-139.

Effective July 1, 2027.

Act 517; SB 524

This Act provides for an additional standard license plate design honoring the 250th anniversary of the United States of America's independence and establishes a specialty license plate honoring Girl Scouts of Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-31, 40-2-31.1, and 40-2-86.

Effective January 1, 2027.

Act 622; HB 1391

This Act establishes a specialty license plate honoring public safety officers and provides that funds raised by the sale of such license plates shall be disbursed to the Georgia Public Safety Foundation, Inc.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-2-86.

Effective January 1, 2027.

Act 640; HB 1161

This Act provides for proper operation of a motor vehicle upon approach by an authorized emergency vehicle or by a law enforcement officer for purposes of a traffic stop. The Act provides for penalties for fleeing or attempting to elude certain law enforcement officers. The Act revises provisions relating to tinting of windows and windshields of motor vehicles. The Act revises provisions relating to automated traffic enforcement safety devices.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-6-74, 40-6-395, 40-8-73.1, 40-8-91, 40-14-6, 40-14-11, and 40-14-18.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the Act are effective July 1, 2026. Section 5 of the Act is effective July 1, 2027.

Act 711; HB 651

This Act revises warning sign requirements for the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices for the enforcement of speeding in school zones. The Act further provides for penalties for the unauthorized or misuse of automated traffic enforcement safety devices by counties and municipalities and prohibits the use of such devices after 2027 without voter approval.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-14-5, 40-14-6, 40-14-8, 40-14-11, 40-14-12, 40-14-13, 40-14-17, 40-14-18, 15-9-155, 15-18-6, 15-18-66, and 15-18-96 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-14-19.

Effective on July 1, 2026, except that Sections 2 and 9 become effective on July 1, 2027.

Veto No. 12; SB 569

This Act permits towing service company vehicles to be designated as emergency vehicles and provides the required proof for an application for emergency lights. The Act requires the department to establish a towed motor vehicle database to allow owners of towed vehicles to be able to search for the location of such vehicles. The Act requires towing service companies to submit certain information to the towed motor vehicle database and changes the amount of time to send a letter with certain information to the owner of a towed vehicle from 15 days to seven days. The Act removes the advertising requirement and permits evidence of timely entering the vehicle information into the towed vehicle database to serve as sufficient notice. The Act permits an owner to file a response to a foreclosure action petition within 30 days of receiving notice of such petition. The Act permits the re-impounding of a motor vehicle to ensure compliance with certain provisions relating to the storage of towed vehicles; provided, however, that storage fees occurring before such point shall not be recoverable.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-1-1, 40-8-92, 40-11-13, 40-11-15, 40-11-16, 40-11-19, and 40-11-19.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-13.1.

**TITLE 42
PENAL INSTITUTIONS**

Act 388; HB 1230

This Act revises provisions relating to restrictions on the operation of an unmanned aircraft system near a place of incarceration. The Act prohibits the knowing and intentional use, or use from a person's property, of an unmanned aircraft system to provide prohibited items to inmates or to photograph or record a place of incarceration for the purpose of committing a criminal offense. The Act allows a warden's prior approval to serve as evidence for a lack of criminal intent. The Act permits unmanned aircraft systems used in violation of the statute to be treated as contraband and permits law enforcement agencies to take mitigation measures against unmanned aircraft systems operating over a place of incarceration. The Act exempts certain operators of unmanned aircraft systems and only permits officers to enforce certain provisions when there is an imminent threat to public safety or violation of state or federal law. The Act also revises exemptions from the prohibited operation of an unmanned aircraft system within 400 feet of a ticketed event.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 6-1-4 and 42-5-18.
Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 43
PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES**

Act 381; HB 219

This Act authorizes the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists and the Georgia Board of Nursing to establish professional health programs to provide for monitoring and rehabilitation of impaired healthcare professionals.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-10A-24 and Article 5 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-26.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 404; HB 571

This Act provides for certain procedures and qualifications of radiologist assistants. The Act authorizes a licensing system for radiologist assistants. The Act also authorizes the Georgia Composite Medical Board to have certain powers and duties relating to continuing education for radiologist assistants.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. 43-34-11; repeals O.C.G.A Section 43-34-12; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 43-34-330 through 43-34-338.

Effective May 5, 2026.

Act 405; HB 1278

This Act revises provisions relating to the issuance of permits for dentists to administer conscious sedation and general anesthesia so as to allow for evaluations, certifications, and examinations to be completed by designees of the Georgia Board of Dentistry.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-11-21 and 43-11-21.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 408; SB 162

This Act requires the Georgia Composite Medical Board to modify its data management software system to streamline and automate the licensing process for physicians, physician assistants, and anesthesiologist assistants.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-34-6.

Effective upon appropriations by the General Assembly.

Act 436; HB 185

This Act provides for professional licensure requirements for dietitians and nutritionists. The Act establishes the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians and Licensed Nutritionists, the powers and duties thereof, and qualifications of board members. The Act provides for criminal background checks, fees, applications, examinations, education, and supervised practice experiences. The Act provides for the enactment of the dietitian interstate licensure compact.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 9-11-9.1, 31-7-351, 31-8-192, 33-20A-3, 33-20E-2, 33-24-59.27, 33-39-3, 43-1-28, 43-1-33, 43-34-316, 51-2-5.1, and 51-16-1 and repeals and reenacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-11A.

Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 449; HB 1195

This Act revises provisions relating to the conditions under which veterinarians and veterinary technicians may provide veterinary telemedicine, teleadvice, and teletriage.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-50-121 and 43-50-122.

Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 453; HB 1275

This Act provides guidelines and requirements for human stem cell therapy. The Act prohibits stem cell therapy or research using human cells or tissues which were derived from an aborted fetus or embryo. The Act provides guidelines and restrictions for human stem cell therapy which are not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. The Act further provides exceptions for certain types of stem cell therapy.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-34-49.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 455; HB 1408

This Act authorizes licensed veterinary technicians under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian to administer antirabies vaccinations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-19-5, 31-19-7, and 43-50-3 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-50-54.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 472; SB 553

This Act repeals and reenacts Chapter 14 of Title 43 concerning the licensing of electrical, low voltage, utility, plumbing, and conditioned air contractors.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-1-34 and 48-7-38 and repeals and reenacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-14.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 473; HB 1254

This Act moves regulatory supervision and licensing of cemeterians, auctioneers, geologists, and hearing aid dispensers to the Secretary of State. The Act creates the Cemeterians Advisory Group. The Act abolishes the State Board of Cemeterians, Georgia Auctioneers Commission, the State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists, and the State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers. The Act retains the auctioneers education, research, and recovery fund. The Act requires cemetery owners to create a business continuity and succession plan.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-14-3, 10-14-3.1, 10-14-4, 10-14-5 through 10-14-7, 10-14-9, 10-14-12, 10-14-17, 10-14-19, 10-14-23, 10-14-29, 12-8-107, 43-7-10, 43-44-2 through 43-44-4, 43-44-6, 43-10A-5, and 53-2-27; repeals O.C.G.A. Chapters 43-8B and 43-20; repeals and reenacts O.C.G.A. Chapters 43-6 and 43-19; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 10-14-3.2, 10-14-4.1, and Article 3 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 43-44.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 509; SB 427

This Act provides for limited provisional licenses for internationally trained physicians who meet certain criteria. The Act restricts the holders of such limited provisional licenses from practicing medicine outside of a medical practice located in a rural county, a licensed hospital, a federally qualified health center, or an accredited medical school, and, further, provides for penalties for violations of such restrictions. The Act provides that the holders of such limited

provisional licenses are subject to certain provisions in the same manner as persons holding full licensure. The Act provides for when limited provisional licenses shall become inactive. The Act provides that internationally trained physicians who hold current, valid limited provisional licenses pursuant to the Act shall be eligible to apply for full licensure after four years of active practice at a medical practice located in a rural county, a licensed hospital, a federally qualified health center, or an accredited medical school in this state.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-34-34.1.

Effective upon appropriations by the General Assembly.

Act 514; SB 485

This Act requires that an applicant for a certificate of registration as a nail technician provide a copy of his or her driver's license or identification with his or her application. The Act requires that beauty shops, beauty salons, and barber shops which are training nail technician apprentices file a copy of the apprentice's driver's license or identification card with his or her registration. The Act requires that photographs of individuals who hold certificates of registration as nail technicians and apprentices be displayed in the beauty shop, beauty salon, or barber shop. The Act authorizes applicants for a license in social work who are enrolled in a master's degree in social work program to sit for the master's social work licensing examination in the final semester of the program. The Act requires a certifying entity for the Behavioral Analyst Certification Board to be a nonprofit organization.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-7A-2, 43-10-9, 43-10-10, 43-10-14, and 43-10A-9.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 519; SB 570

This Act requires training in human trafficking awareness by employees of inns and third-party property managers of short-term rental properties. The Act provides for the development of such training, the adoption of reporting procedures and policies, posting and record keeping requirements, and administrative penalties for non-compliance.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-21-16.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 628; SB 207

This Act sets forth a process and factors for consideration when a professional licensing board reviews an applicant's criminal record and limits the offenses that can be used to deny or revoke a license. The Act also creates a process for petitioning a professional licensing board for a predetermination of whether a criminal record would be disqualifying. The Act requires a professional licensing board to post certain information on its website and to file annual reports with the Secretary of State. The Act updates the qualifications for firefighters relating to certain convictions. The Act also increases the time period for a trafficking victim to obtain a criminal background check to support a petition to vacate sentence and provides for filings under seal.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 17-10-21, 25-4-8, 43-1-1, 43-1-19, 43-1-27, 43-3-27, 43-9-12, 43-10-20, 43-15-19, 43-24A-9, 43-39A-14, 43-40-15, and 43-45-9 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 33-23-21.2, 33-23-43.11, 43-15-19.1, and 43-3-21.1.

Effective July 1, 2026, except that Parts I through IV of the Act are effective on July 1, 2027, and applicable to any applications for licensure submitted on or after such date.

Act 634; HB 717

This Act authorizes the establishment of rules and regulations for the administration of psychedelic-assisted treatment and therapy in clinics and provides specific requirements. The Act authorizes the establishment of minimum standards of continuing medical education for all healthcare professionals owning a clinic where such treatment is performed. The Act provides for licensing of and requirements for clinics, including the execution of hospital affiliation agreements and the capability to transfer patients to hospitals. The Act identifies the individuals who may administer psychedelic-assisted treatment and therapy. The Act provides for penalties.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-34-49.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 715; SB 406

This Act provides for the registration of residential property owners' associations with the Office of the Secretary of State and duties and obligations thereof. The Act provides for a complaints procedure, an appeals procedure, rights for owners of residential property under an owners' association, the prioritization of remitted funds, voting procedures for associations, and notice requirements.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 44-3-222, 44-3-226, 44-3-232, 44-3-235, and 44-7-50 and enacts Chapter 43-17A.

Effective January 1, 2027. Section 7 of the Act is effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 44
PROPERTY**

Act 379; HB 413

This Act expands the class of applicants with access to certified copies of vital records to include grantee beneficiaries designated in a transfer-on-death form. The Act requires legal capacity to enter into a contract in order to execute a transfer-on-death deed and prohibits execution of the deed by an attorney on the owner's behalf. The Act authorizes the designation of alternative, contingent grantee beneficiaries and conveyance of an interest to a trust, but prohibits the use of a transfer-on-death deed to create a trust or an interest in real property. The Act sets forth procedures and requirements for the transfer and acceptance of ownership of a transfer-on-death deed, including procedures for the estates of deceased owners. The Act provides for revocation of transfer-on-death deeds and sets forth procedural requirements. The Act sets forth the priority of a transfer-on-death deed over unsecured debts and a year's support. The Act prohibits local government entities from regulating livestock or owners located on private property or public roads.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 2-1-6, 31-10-26, 44-17-2, 44-17-4, 44-17-5, and 53-3-5.
Effective April 22, 2026.

Act 410; SB 403

This Act revises provisions relating to the Georgia Unclaimed Property List relative to notice to interested parties. The Act provides for the method of payments of unclaimed property to claimants. The Act authorizes the state revenue commissioner to make payment of unclaimed property without receiving a claim in certain circumstances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 44-12-192, 44-12-215, 4-12-220, 48-2-15, and 48-7-60.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 480; HB 1024

This Act increases, for purposes of bankruptcy, the amount of aggregate interest a debtor or the debtor's dependent may exempt from levy and sale in real property or personal property that the debtor or the debtor's dependent uses as a residence, in a cooperative that owns the property that the debtor or the debtor's dependent uses as a residence, or in a burial plot for the debtor or the debtor's dependent. The Act further provides for inflation based adjustments of such exemption beginning July 1, 2031.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 44-13-100.
Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 45
PUBLIC OFFICERS**

Act 413; HB 1118

This Act provides for maternal birth leave for certain state employees. The Act provides for the State Accounting Office to add maternal birth leave as a new benefit leave category. The Act prohibits employing entities from taking adverse actions against employees claiming leave.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 45-20-23.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 415; HB 1128

This Act provides for notice of eligibility for compensation to legal guardians of certain injured peace officers by the State Board of Workers' Compensation and law enforcement agencies. The Act also provides a limited extension of the application period for indemnification claims of certain public safety officers relating to a total permanent disability that might otherwise be time-barred.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 34-9-26 and 35-1-24 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 45-9-86.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 46
PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Act 636; HB 998

This Act authorizes certain Tier 2 local exchange companies to elect to become subject to rate of return regulation and extends the period of time certain distributions can be made from the Universal Access Fund. The Act requires certain information from local exchange companies seeking reimbursement from the fund, limits the total amount of distributions to no more than \$50 million, and provides annual monetary limits. The Act also requires annual reports on the Universal Access Fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 46-5-165, 46-5-166, and 46-5-167.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**TITLE 47
RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS**

Act 399; SB 150

This Act extends from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2030, provisions of the Teachers Retirement System law that authorizes certain beneficiaries of the system to be rehired as full-time teachers in defined areas of highest need. The Act also expands such reemployment authorization to math and special education teachers as well as teachers who have dyslexia or reading certification regardless of their inclusion in the areas of highest need. The Act also provides that areas of highest need are determined at the public school system level.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-3-127.1.

Effective on July 1, 2026, if it is determined that the Act is concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law."

Act 414; SB 452

This Act increases the maximum employer contribution to 401(k) accounts for certain state law enforcement officers.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-2-357.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 416; SB 285

This Act requires county and municipal corporations to remit 1.5 percent of funds collected from insurance premium taxes to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. The Act establishes legislative intent that the state appropriations process includes an appropriation of a half percent of all state insurance premium taxes collected to such fund. The Act authorizes an increase in the benefit multiplier used for life annuity policies from such fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-8-8.3 and 47-17-80 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-17-64.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 439; HB 438

This Act allows any sworn law enforcement officer, commissioner, or deputy commissioner serving in the Department of Public Safety to be eligible for regular retirement benefits upon the age of 55 years, certain disability benefits, and certain provisions for purchasing creditable service.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-2-110, 47-2-111, 47-2-221, 47-2-223, and 47-2-226.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 488; SB 216

This Act places the director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualification Commission into Judicial Retirement System membership. The Act allows members of the Employees' Retirement System already serving in such director role on or before June 30, 2026, to elect to become a member of the Judicial Retirement System after paying the actuarial cost associated with the transfer of service. The Act requires the Employees' Retirement System to transfer all contributions associated with the director and regular interest to the Judicial Retirement System upon election and payment. The Act vests the full amount of service the director rendered as an employee as a member of the Employees' Retirement System.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-23-100 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-23-43.2.

Effective July 1, 2026, if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law."

Act 490; SB 261

This Act revises provisions relative to the Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia. The Act changes the composition of the Board of Commissioners of the Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia and increases member dues, the amount of retirement benefits payable to members, and the maximum number of years of service used to calculate such benefits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-25-20, 47-25-41, and 47-25-81.

Effective July 1, 2026, if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law."

Act 515; SB 489

This Act allows the Board of Commissioners of the Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Fund of Georgia to set monthly dues. The Act increases certain fees collected by probate courts

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-11-22, 47-11-40, 47-11-50, and 47-11-51.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 630; SB 143

This Act revises provisions relating to commencement of benefits, eligibility, and vesting under the Georgia Firefighter's Pension Fund. The Act revises provisions relating to reemployment. The Act includes full time judges of the Georgia Tax Court in the Judicial Retirement System.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-7-100, 47-7-101, and 47-23-100 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-23-51.

Effective July 1, 2026, if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law."

Act 631; HB 1234

This Act allows members in the state's Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, Georgia Legislative Retirement System, and Georgia Judicial Retirement System to assign the benefit from a group term life insurance policy obtained through the State Employees' Assurance Department to a funeral home.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-19-11.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 716; HB 1020

This Act enacts the "District Attorney Compensation Reform Act," which revises district attorney compensation by providing a new compensation structure. The Act provides an annual salary for district attorneys that is set by the General Assembly, and provides the option for district attorneys currently in office on or before July 1, 2026, to receive the new annual salary, and any locality pay in lieu of his or her current compensation. The Act prohibits district attorneys taking office on or after July 1, 2026, from receiving county salary supplements; however, the Act allows district attorneys to receive specified locality pay. The Act provides for an increase in the base salary schedule for assistant district attorneys. The Act suspends local laws and resolutions currently in effect which tie the salary of other government officials to the salary of a district attorney which would lead to a pay increase for such government officials. The Act provides for the payment of monthly retirement benefits for creditable service as a district attorney at the age of 65 years. The Act provides revised retirement calculations based on age for individuals who become members of the Georgia Judicial Retirement System on or after July 1, 2026.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-18-10, 15-18-10.1, 15-18-14, 45-7-4, 47-23-45, 47-23-102.1, 47-23-103, 47-23-104, 47-23-105.1, 47-23-106, and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 1-3-13, 15-18-10.2, and 47-23-102.2.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Veto No. 8; SB 23

This Act authorizes certain large retirement systems to invest up to 10 percent of the total assets of their funds into real estate, excluding investments in single-family homes or residences. The Act also prohibits certain retirement systems from investing more than 15 percent of their assets into alternative investments and prohibits the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia from investing more than 10 percent into such investments.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-20-83 and 47-20-87.

TITLE 48
REVENUE AND TAXATION

Act 374; HB 1000

This Act provides a one-time tax credit to qualified taxpayers filing their 2025 income tax returns, in the amount of \$250.00 to single taxpayers or married taxpayers filing a separate return, \$375.00 to the head of a household, and \$500.00 to a married couple filing jointly. The Act also excludes such tax credits from taxable income for Georgia individual income tax purposes and provides instructions for processing refunds and credits.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-20.4.

Effective March 20, 2026.

Act 375; HB 1199

This Act provides for the revision of the terms "Internal Revenue Code" and "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" and incorporates certain provisions of federal law into Georgia law. The Act limits the amount of tax credits for qualified low-income buildings to \$100 million annually. The Act also suspends the excise tax on motor fuels for 60 days.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-1-2, 48-7-29.6, and 48-9-3.

Effective March 20, 2026, and applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, except that Section 1 of the Act is applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Act 378; SB 566

This Act revises the information to be included on the ad valorem tax bill, including requiring disclosure of the amount of certain tax reductions and eliminating certain reporting requirements relating to millage rates and homestead exemptions. The Act revises definitions relating to base year homestead exemptions with respect to substantial property changes. The Act clarifies certain application requirements for homestead exemptions and provides exemption calculations for applicants who become ineligible for a homestead exemption, but later regain eligibility on the same property. The Act revises the deadline for applying for a homestead exemption and requires a person who becomes ineligible for a homestead exemption to notify the tax receiver or tax commissioner by a certain date. The Act establishes a penalty for persons who fail to report his or her ineligibility for any homestead exemption and provides for an appeal. The Act requires local tax officials to submit a list of taxpayers who have been granted or denied an exemption to the Department of Revenue annually. The Act revises the contents of the annual notice of current assessment, including information about the right to appeal. The Act eliminates the calculation of estimated roll-back rates.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-2, 48-5-34, 48-5-44.2, 48-5-45, and 48-5-306; repeals O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-306.2; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-51.1 and 48-5-57.

Effective April 22, 2026, and applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Act 407; HB 165

This Act clarifies the requirements for obtaining a sales and use tax exemption for a manufactured home and eliminates certain exclusions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 424; HB 1159

This Act exempts from taxation certain income received by individuals, corporations, and partnerships under the Farmer Bridge Assistance and Specialty Crop Farmers programs of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-21, 48-7-23, and 48-7-27.

Effective May 6, 2026.

Act 427; HB 134

This Act establishes income tax credits for certain forestry manufacturing activities and provides for the transfer and sale of certain tax credits. The Act limits the aggregate amount of such tax credits and establishes a differing amount in tier 3 and tier 4 counties. The Act requires the Department of Revenue to provide an annual report regarding tax credit transfers by forestry manufacturers to certain members of the General Assembly. The Act requires approval by two-thirds of the members elected to each chamber of the General Assembly in a roll-call vote in order to renew or extend any of the tax credits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-40, 48-7-40.1, 48-7-40.2, 48-7-40.3, and 48-7-40.4, and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-40.4A.

Effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Act 431; SB 306

This Act revises provisions relating to ad valorem taxation of conservation use property so as to include property with carbon sequestration as a secondary use. The Act revises provisions for certain expirations and renewals related to assessments for conservation use property. The Act modifies the cap on the amount of tax credits initially awarded for qualified low-income buildings to an annual cap instead of an aggregate cap for multiple years.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-7.4, 48-5-7.7, and 48-7-29.6.

Effective May 6, 2026, and Sections 1 and 2 of the Act are applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

Act 435; HB 141

This Act allows businesses and practitioners to provide affidavits of certified public accountants in lieu of tax returns to local governments to facilitate their determination of the amount of occupation tax to be levied.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-13-10 and 48-13-14.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 461; SB 33

This Act provides for reductions in ad valorem property taxes and creates a Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST) to fund homestead exemptions. The Act also establishes procedures for the imposition, collection, and distribution of a LHOST. The Act modifies the calculations for the equalized adjusted school property tax digest and increases the allowable amount of reserve funds for local school systems. The Act also revises the dates for special elections in certain circumstances. The Act revises definitions relating to base year homestead exemptions with respect to substantial property changes and provides exemption calculations for applicants who become ineligible for a homestead exemption, but later regain eligibility on the same property. The Act expands certain ad valorem reporting requirements to municipal and school officials. The Act also prohibits retroactive assessment of additional ad valorem taxes due to certain mistakes by taxpayers.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-164, 20-2-167, 21-2-540, 48-5-44.2, 48-5-302, 48-5-303, 48-8-6, and 48-8-109.42 and enacts Article 2C of O.C.G.A. Chapter 48-8.

Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 464; HB 445

This Act provides for hearing officer review of appeals from tax assessments of certain taxable tangible personal property. The Act authorizes certain current and former appraisers to apply to be a hearing officer and requires the Georgia Real Estate Appraisers Board to publish a list of qualified hearing officers.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-1-2 and 48-5-311.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 465; HB 463

This Act creates a new step-down income tax rate reduction to a terminal rate of 3.99 percent and incrementally increases the standard deduction to \$18,000.00 for single taxpayers and \$36,000.00 for married couples, with potential delays based on the state revenue. The Act also increases the deduction for dependents. The Act further provides for an increase of retirement income to be excluded from state taxable income for persons over the age of 65. The Act excludes up to \$1,750.00 of overtime compensation or cash tips from taxation and imposes reporting requirements on the employer. The Act creates a Taxpayer Relief Fund, increases the Revenue Shortfall Reserve, and authorizes the use of certain surplus funds for tax relief. The Act also repeals various tax credits, including certain credits relating to teleworking expenses; personal protective equipment manufacturers; base year port traffic increases; alternative fuel, low-emission, and zero-emission vehicles and electric vehicle chargers; businesses headquartered in state; businesses engaged in manufacturing cigarettes for exportation; and business enterprises that purchase or lease motor vehicles to provide transportation for employees. The Act limits the issuance of new certificates of exemption from sales and use tax for the sale, repair, or replacement of machinery used to reduce air or water pollution.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 45-12-93, 48-7-20, 48-7-26, 48-7-27, and 48-8-3 and repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-29.11, 48-7-40.1A, 48-7-40.1B, 48-7-40.15, 48-7-40.15A, 48-7-40.16, 48-7-40.18, 48-7-40.20, and 48-7-40.22.

Effective May 11, 2026, and applicable to all taxable years beginning January 1, 2026.

Act 467; HB 1209

This Act provides an exemption from sales and use taxes for tangible property and construction materials used for the construction or furnishing of buildings located on certain wharf lots and improvements located in the proximity of certain state-owned convention or meeting centers. The Act further provides that the exemption provided for by the Act applies only from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2033, or until \$7 million of sales and use taxes are refunded pursuant to its provisions, whichever occurs first.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3.

Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 483; HB 1261

This Act provides an ad valorem taxation level 1 freeport exemption for certain types of electric utility equipment held in inventory by an electric utility taxpayer for use in the normal course of business within Georgia. The Act requires an application for such exemption to contain a summary of the inventory of finished goods and parts held by an electric utility in the ordinary course of operations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-48.1 and 48-5-48.2.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 493; SB 430

This Act provides for military museums and related institutions to be included in tourism product development. The Act provides for the Hotel Motel Tax Performance Review Board to meet quarterly for the review of alterations or changes to the designated private sector nonprofit organizations engaged to promote tourism and provides criteria for such review. The Act further provides for such board to meet, hold hearings for any received complaints on a local government's expenditures, and submit reports to the commissioner of community affairs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-13-50.2, 48-13-51, and 48-13-56.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 709; HB 439

This Act enables counties and municipalities to establish local homeowner's incentive adjustment grant programs to reduce the tax burden on qualified homesteads. The Act requires referendums to establish and discontinue such grant programs. The Act sets forth requirements, limitations, and procedures for awarding grants. The Act requires rules and regulations to be adopted by the state revenue commissioner for the administration of such grant programs. The Act also provides for recovery of erroneously or illegally awarded grant credits.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 36-89A-1 through 36-89A-6 and 48-5-381.1.

Effective January 1, 2027.

Veto No. 2; HB 376

This Act makes changes to the tax credit allowable for certified rehabilitation of certain historic structures. The Act raises the minimum expenditure for non-home historic structures which would be eligible for the tax credit. The Act lowers the tax credit from 25 percent to 20 percent of expenditures in counties with a population greater than 50,000, while raising the tax credit to 30 percent in counties with a population less than 50,000. The Act also raises the maximum amount of the tax credit allowable in the aggregate each year from \$30 million to \$60 million.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-29.8.

Veto No. 3; HB 519

This Act provides that the amount of federal work opportunity credit claimed by a taxpayer shall also be allowed as a tax credit against state income taxes. The Act provides for conditions, eligibility, limitations, and proportionate recaptures. The Act also provides for definitions, the burden of proof, the maintenance of records, rules and regulations, and automatic repeal.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-29.27.

Veto No. 4; HB 1070

This Act revises what expenditures constitute qualified railroad track maintenance expenditures that can be used as a tax credit for a Class III railroad. The Act increases the amount of such credit.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-40.34.

Veto No. 5; HB 1077

This Act extends the sunset date applicable to the exemption for sales of tickets, fees, and charges of admission to certain museums and fine arts performances or exhibitions at nonprofit facilities until December 31, 2032. The Act creates an exemption for sales of tickets, fees, or charges for admission to the Georgia National Fair held at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3.

Veto No. 9; SB 59

This Act increases the aggregate cap of allowable tax credits for timber producers incurring losses from Hurricane Helene. The Act establishes deadlines for the Commissioner of Revenue to begin accepting and approving or rejecting applications for such credits. The Act removes the requirement for a preapproval certificate to obtain tax credits up to a certain amount.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-40.37.

TITLE 49
SOCIAL SERVICES

Act 401; HB 334

This Act revises provisions relating to providing certain information to parents and guardians and requires the Department of Human Services to review treatment of certain patients. The Act requires early child care learning centers and family child care learning homes to provide certain information and recommendations regarding the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) to parents or guardians of enrolled children. The Act requires the Department of Human Services to review all eligible medications, forms of treatment, and services for Medicaid recipients with a diagnosis of sickle cell disease to determine if such medications, treatments, and services are adequate. The Act requires the department to solicit certain public input, to submit a report to the presiding officers of each house of the General Assembly, and to publish such report on its website.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-18 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 49-4-159.5.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 475; HB 256

This Act provides for additional rights of parties and the Department of Human Services in juvenile proceedings. The Act authorizes foster placements to have access to certain information and to share such information with certified volunteer advocates. The Act provides for penalties for unauthorized access to certain records. The Act updates the rights of foster placements with respect to determining a foster child's participation in certain activities, investigation of complaints, involvement of a certified volunteer advocate, retaliation, and access to independent legal advice.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-17, 15-11-19, 49-5-41, 49-5-280, and 49-5-281.
Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 477; HB 943

This Act provides that the Division of Family and Children Services shall create a pilot program to provide screenings and clinical evaluations for autism spectrum disorder to children in foster care and to provide training, services, and resources on such disorder to regional directors, county directors, division supervisors, division case managers, other division staff, healthcare providers, and caregivers. The Act further provides for reporting and recommendations. Additionally, the Act provides for definitions and provides for the automatic repeal of such pilot program.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-26.
Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 491; SB 402

This Act provides that the Division of Family and Children Services shall create a pilot program to provide screenings and clinical evaluations for autism spectrum disorder to children in foster care and to provide training, services, and resources on such disorder to regional directors, county directors, division supervisors, division case managers, other division staff, healthcare providers,

and caregivers. The Act further provides for reporting and recommendations. Additionally, the Act provides for definitions and provides for the automatic repeal of such pilot program.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-26.

Effective May 11, 2026.

Act 629; SB 500

This Act expands the Behavioral Health Care Workforce Data Base to include data from licensed health care professionals. Further, the Act renames such data base as the "Health Care Workforce Data Base."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-10-5.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Veto No. 6; HB 1192

This Act provides that any state or federal funds appropriated to the Department of Human Services or the Department of Community Health and designated for a specific purpose shall not be commingled with other funds, shall be maintained in a separate account, and shall only be expended for the designated specific purpose. The Act provides for an annual review and report to the legislature.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 49-2-10 and 49-4-144.

**TITLE 50
STATE GOVERNMENT**

Act 382; HB 466

This Act designates the marsh tacky horse as the official Georgia heritage horse breed. The Act designates the pineywoods cattle as the official Georgia heritage cattle breed. The Act provides for legislative findings and declarations.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 50-3-96 and 50-3-97.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 430; HB 1310

This Act designates cotton as the official state fabric. The Act provides for legislative findings.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-3-96.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 456; HB 1415

This Act updates the Stone Mountain Memorial Association's powers relating to the acquisition and sale of real property and imposes requirements with respect to maintaining a real property inventory, conveyances, and the remission of funds. The Act also requires that certain real property obtained by the Jekyll Island State Park Authority and Stone Mountain Memorial

Association be placed in a trust for the public benefit and cannot be sold unless for a public road right of way.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-3-194 and 50-16-3.1.
Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 708; HB 297

This Act provides for substantial reform to state involvement in transit services. The Act abolishes the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority and the Governor's Development Council. The Act changes the name of the Atlanta-region Transit Link "ATL" Authority to the Georgia Transportation Efficiency Authority and revises such authority's powers, jurisdiction, and governance structure. The Act further extends the sunset for authority to collect a local sales and use tax for purposes of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority and removes logo and branding requirements for such authority.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-8-31, 32-6-51, 32-9-11, 32-9-13, 32-9-15, 32-9-19, 32-9-20, 32-9-23, 36-1-27, 36-80-26, 40-1-100, 48-8-243, 48-8-249 through 48-8-251, 48-8-269.40, 48-8-269.45, 48-8-269.57, 48-13-140, 48-13-143, 50-8-35, 50-18-72, and 50-23-4; repeals O.C.G.A. Section 32-9-17, Article 6 of Chapter 12 of Title 45, and Chapter 32 of Title 50; repeals and reenacts Chapter 39 of Title 50; and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 32-9-13.1.

Effective May 12, 2026.

Veto No. 1; HB 14

This Act establishes the Georgia Music Office to assist in facilitating music industry growth in the state through development and marketing. The Act further establishes the Music Friendly Georgia Certified Community Program and provides requirements for obtaining such certification.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 50-7-130, 50-7-131, and 50-7-132.

**TITLE 51
TORTS**

Act 458; HB 1470

This Act addresses situations where a claimant brings an unsuccessful claim against a person or entity of this state alleging that the person or entity operates a website in violation of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Act provides that when such a claim is adjudicated on the merits against the claimant, is involuntarily dismissed at any stage by the claimant, or is dismissed based on the claimant's lack of standing, the person or entity in this state who was named in the claimant's civil action can recover damages and attorney's fees against the claimant and the claimant's attorney.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 51-1-58.

Effective July 1, 2026, and applicable to all causes of action accruing on or after such date.

TITLE 52
WATERS OF THE STATE, PORTS, AND WATERCRAFT

Act 434; HB 115

This Act requires law enforcement to perform unattended vessel checks and sets forth a process for doing so. The Act also revises the procedure for removal of unattended or abandoned vessels from public waters or public property. The Act provides for notices to registered owners of stolen vessels or vessels suspected to be abandoned and authorizes liens for actual and projected costs of removal, storage, and sale of such vessels if unclaimed. The Act provides for criminal penalties for owners of abandoned vessels who fail to remove such vessels from public waters or property after notice.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 52-7-5, 52-7-70, 52-7-71, 52-7-72, 52-7-72.1, and 52-7-74, and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 52-7-70.1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Act 451; HB 1266

This Act prohibits personal watercraft from being operated on part of the Ogeechee River.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 52-7-13.

Effective July 1, 2026.

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